SOUTH AFRICA SURVEY 2003 / 2004

Demographics • The Economy
Business and Employment • Education • Health and Welfare
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Cover photograph:
Original gold rhinoceros recovered from the famed 13th-century kingdom of Mapungubwe, now a World Heritage Site. Courtesy of the Mapungubwe Museum, University of Pretoria (enquiries: Sian Tiley, Curator).

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FOREWORD

This year the Institute celebrates its 75th anniversary and looks back on 54 issues of our benchmark publication of statistics on South Africa. The current issue of our *South Africa Survey* provides a detailed annual statistical survey of the country in the format established over the past few years. A page of 'key points' at the beginning of each chapter outlines important developments and gives an overview of the material in the tables that follow. Wherever possible, the tables are accompanied by visual representations in the form of graphs and charts. International comparisons serve as a measure of our standing relative to the rest of the world. Other information, developments, facts, and statements which cannot be captured in tabular form and thus go 'beyond the tables', as well as late-breaking items, follow each statistical section. Finally, each chapter 'looks ahead' with forecasts, projections, promises, and possible future developments in the field of each chapter. Readers can make many links between different *Survey* chapters, assisted by the detailed contents and index. Appendices list cabinet ministers, deputy ministers, provincial premiers, and members of the nine provincial executive councils, as well as legislation passed in 2003 and 2004.

New in this this issue, our 'Africa' chapter provides comprehensive comparative statistics on African states with particular focus on 31 countries of special interest to South Africa.

The rhinoceros in foiled 24-carat gold on our cover is an 800-year-old relic of the diversified society of the kingdom of Mapungubwe. The kingdom — legendary until the discovery in 1933 of the site and artifacts showing its trade links to China, India, and Egypt — was centred at the confluence of the Shashi and Limpopo rivers, and flourished in the area for a few centuries. Although the archaeological collection housed at the University of Pretoria has been well publicised since its inception 70 years ago, the establishing of a permanent Mapungubwe Museum at the university in 2000 signalled a popular rediscovery of the ancient society as an emblem of African culture and achievement.

For obvious reasons, our *Survey* contains only a fraction of the information available at the Institute. Our library information service supplies information on request to members by hand-delivery, fax, or e-mail. Members are welcome to contact our Information Director by phone (011) 403-3600, fax 403-3007, or e-mail TDimant@sairr.org.za; or our research staff via the editor: JTempest @sairr.org.za. Readers who would like to become members are also invited to contact us.

9. Discrepancies in the spelling of names or the styling of portfolios and ministries often occur in the press. The *Survey* uses *Hansard* and the *Who's Who of Southern Africa* as its final authorities — we assume that they are more reliable than newspapers or websites, although *Hansard* spellings can vary from time to time.
10. Figures from the same source may not always correspond with each other. Sometimes this is because the information was gathered, or published, at different times or in different reports. For instance, figures on government finances cannot always be reconciled with one another because they have been updated from time to time during the year. The *Survey* tries wherever possible to capture the latest figures, but it is not always possible to delete or amend the earlier ones.
11. As a result of our attempt to keep all the information relevant to a particular table on the same page rather than splitting tables over two pages, some pages have empty spaces. Illustrations have been placed as close as possible to the relevant table.
12. In many cases tables contain a footnote saying that 'figures should add up but may not, owing to rounding'. This rounding may have been done either by the Institute or by the agency from which the material was obtained.
13. Comparable figures over time frequently begin in different years in different tables, depending on what was available, and when particular figures began to be kept. Very often figures are not always comparable from one year to the next because they are based on different sets of data. In cases where a long-term comparison was desirable, data from different reports have been used. In such cases a footnote draws the reader's attention to this.
14. Information gathered from Stats SA and reprinted here is frequently distinguished according to urban areas, and non-urban or rural areas. An urban area is one which has been legally proclaimed as being urban and may include towns, cities, and metropolitan areas. Non-urban or rural areas include commercial farms, small settlements, rural villages, and other areas which are further away from towns and cities. Stats SA includes figures for semi-urban areas (areas not part of legally proclaimed urban areas, but adjoining them such as informal settlements) in those for urban areas.
15. Figures obtained from Stats SA are not always comparable to figures compiled by other organisations — for instance, Stats SA figures on absorption into employment in the chapter on Business and Employment differ from those provided by the South African Reserve Bank, because the latter were seasonally adjusted. Similarly, in the chapter on The Economy figures from the Bureau of Economic Research differ from those provided by the Industrial Development Corporation.
16. Wherever possible, explanations for anomalous information were obtained from sources. We provide all data in good faith, having done whatever possible to verify it.
17. References to *Fast Facts* are to the Institute's monthly publication; those to News Releases are to articles published on the Institute's website, but not necessarily also in printed form.
18. Our use of the term 'African' to mean 'black African' is not intended to imply that people of other races have any inferior claim on being Africans.

Readers are urged to make use of the index and the detailed contents to make sure that no relevant information is missed. For example, data on the education levels of the unemployed are in the Business and Employment, not the Education, chapter; both the Health and the Demographics chapters contain information on the impact of HIV/AIDS.

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